

State Youth Council  
10 April 2008

NOTES

**Members:** Parley Jacobs, Norman Johnson, Scott Williams, Cecil Robinson, Marie Christman, Eric Jenkins (for Jane Lewis), Melissa Freigang, Murray Meszaras,  
**DWS Staff:** Jane Broadhead, Rod Barlow, Maira Lesa, Bob Gilbert, Julie Lay, Ann Barnson, Brian Smith (for Zenaida),  
**Guests:** Anndee Wilkins, Juan Peláez of DOL, Lynnette Robinson  
**Excused:** Jared Ferguson, Zenaida Martinez,  
**Notes:** Tricia Mecham

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

New members were not introduced.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2008 MINUTES**

Cecil moved approval. All approved as written.

**BUDGET AND OUTCOME REPORTS**

DOL has rescinded funds. The budget report does not reflect rescissions. Obligations (target 90%) and expenditure (target 54%) currently at 38%. Once the adjustment for rescissions has been made, obligation and expenditure levels will look considerably different. We are meeting 50% of expenditures on out-of-school youth. Law requires only 30%, but Council set the target higher.

Performance Measures – just a little below target at this time and not in danger of sanction.

This is the first year we've been fully reporting the Literacy/Numeracy Gains and Jane is not completely confident in the data. It has been a struggle, but have addressed it with a summit and additional work. Regional Youth Councils have been asked to be involved in Basic Education as an industry sector. Jane commended Central Region and Salt Lake County's Youth Employment Services (YES) on efforts to raise literacy/numeracy gains.

**EMPLOYER HIGHLIGHT**

Presented by Anndee Wilkins, Program Developer, Jobs for Kids, Boys and Girls Clubs of Utah County

Jobs For Kids allows the students the opportunity to do career exploration using UtahMentor, and job shadow with an employer. The JFK program is tailored for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Jobs For Kids comprises 6 one-hour classes. There is no income limit for participation in Boys and Girls Clubs, a \$10 fee covers the entire year. Boys and Girls Club can start at first grade.

Junior Staff – youth paid hourly wages. Limited opportunities. Goal is to train them to be Club staff. There is considerable volunteer staff.

Planning their first “Future fair,” similar to a college fair, but explores all options for post-high school advancement, employment and education. This will be open to the public, not limited to Club Members.

There is a summer program, which includes a lot of field trips: water parks, movies, museums, Thanksgiving Point and Friday theme days as well as meth awareness, essay contests, etc. Activities are advertised through local website and school counselors, CTE classes, etc.

## **WIA RESCISSION – IMPACT ON YOUTH PROGRAMS**

January 4, 2008, DWS received a letter from DOL rescinding funds from PY05 and 06. DOL referred it as an “unexpended balance,” however these funds are already obligated in Utah programs. Youth funds in Utah were not rescinded from PY05, since we met expenditure targets. In addition, on PY06, there was an across-the-board rescission of 1%. PY 07 received an across-the-board reduction of 1.7%. We’ve lost over \$500K to the program with the rescissions. We’ve lost over 22% of funds over recent years with rescissions and funding reductions. We will have to serve fewer youth than in the past. As we raise the service priority level, it’s likely that we’ll be addressing harder to serve youth (with more barriers), it may therefore be necessary to re-negotiate outcome measures.

We are not anticipating an increased amount in ETV funding, but are moving into a program for supportive service funds via EBT / ETV. Trying to determine if priority can be over-ridden to serve youth in the ETV system.

Despite economic turndown through most of the nation, Utah’s economy is still fairly healthy, so funding is unlikely to increase.

During the EBT project process, we’ve learned that WIA awards count against other financial aid awards. Strategy is rather than using WIA as the first resource, to allow education to cover what they will, and use WIA to support unmet needs. Moving to the EBT card also allows our customers access to a broader range of services and products, because they are not limited to vendors willing to work with our voucher systems. The cards and account types are restricted, so it is not carte blanche. Misuse of the card would result in the card being revoked. Funding is only added to the card as needed and students will be required to return receipts to continue to receive assistance. This does require some level of monitoring, and finance staff and employment counselors are prepared to monitor expenditures. It’s not without risk, but it has been limited as much as possible. The system is scheduled to be effective statewide May 1. Jane will be reporting at the July meeting.

## **SERVICE PRIORITY**

The team will be looking at ways to streamline the WIA Youth Service Delivery process, including looking at the service priority system. Some items for which points are awarded are duplicative. Will be working closely with Regional Councils as we move forward. Will also need to re-examine the

incentive plan. Recommendations will be brought forward to the July meeting. Regional Councils are expected to maintain the level of control. Regional Councils are interested in seeing the priority systems of other regions. Jane can share spreadsheet. Action on recommendations will be required prior to the State Youth Council meeting in July. More guidance will be provided at next week's coordination meeting with DCFS.

## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

### **Central**

Mentoring youth in services through YES. Working with Just For Youth website. Expanded from YES customers to DCFS and Boys and Girls Clubs, assigning business people to mentor. Working on education process on youth who have formally exempted out of school. So far nearly 100 youth from Granite School District have been contacted. This month, a sub-committee convened to make referrals to appropriate providers.

Construction fair is scheduled for end of April. Auto Fest scheduled in the fall. Health industries career fair also scheduled for later in April. Focusing on apprenticeships. Juan Peláez has been added to the Youth Council.

### **Eastern**

Southeast region raised service priority thresholds, evolving into discussion in how to serve youth. Easy to identify barriers, hard to identify youth and bring them into services. San Juan School District brought to light differences in vision, leading to further discussion on information sharing. Working to integrate employment and training services with local education. There is a representative from DCFS on Regional Councils in many areas. Some progress has been made.

### **Mountainland**

Council focused on basic education. A sub-committee has been formed. Goal is to get something going to help youth work on soft skills and identify those who are basic skills deficient. Picked target population to address. Putting a small pilot group together. MATC will teach an 18-hour course. Working on approving curriculum. All youth will take the TABE, those 18 and over will be referred to adult education. This should help literacy/numeracy gains. Will not be duplicating the administration of TABE.

### **North**

Weber/Davis/Morgan: Just before the rescissions, DWS cancelled the contract with FTT, so they are in an unusual position to move ahead. Just approved service priority, but want to look at it again, so timing is right. Improving basic education for the community. Push is to get to legislature and thereby to education to focus on technical training rather than college focused education.

Not clear how leadership projects are shaping up. Some grace will be granted due to rescissions.

Bear River: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Groups learning grants. An educator partnered with other youth and after-school providers in Logan City Schools "Alliance for Youth." Impact has been that local awareness has increased. Included 4H, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. There was also a substantial reduction in incidence of negative activity between 3 and 6 PM. Round table for manufacturing has been planned for 14 May. Have had a dinner with local legislative representation to raise awareness.

## Western

Four of six reality events have taken place. In these events, they assign youth life scenarios, then they go to booths to purchase life needs. They generally have 50 – 80 students at each event. This is the leadership project for the year since youth help plan, set up, etc. They have also had a construction career fair. The Youth Council lost a few members and is gearing up again. They are trying to map basic education resources in the regions. Centers were charged with developing connections to basic education. Have looked at priority as well.